GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2865
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2001
EARNING FROM OPTICAL FIBRE CABLE .
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways had set a target to earn Rs.500 crores in the current financial year by laying and leasing optical fibre cable;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that only Rs.50 crores was earned so far through optical fibre cable network;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to earn targeted amount from OFC?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d): Indian Railways have formed a separate corporation called RailTel Corporation of India Ltd.

(RCIL)for laying optical fibre cable and for earning revenues b y commercially exploiting the telecom capacity. Since the RailTel Corporation of India Ltd.

(RCIL) has been set up only during the current financial yearand is not fully functional yet, no commercial earning is expected in the current financial year, 2000-2001. A consultant who was appointed to draw up a business plan for RCIL has since submitted the report and it is under examination by the Ministry of Railways for implementation.